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## Saving the day

Fisherman towed to safety after  
an intense storm on Lake Erie  
Page 2

## Back on their feet

Centre offering free physio for  
people without health insurance  
Page 3

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# INPORT NEWS

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## Stepping back in history



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Arabella's League of BFFs, a part of Port Colborne Public Library's summer programming, takes children aged nine to 12 on a role-play adventure in which they learn about Arabella Williams, a prominent woman in Port Colborne's history. Front, left to right, are: Arabella's League of BFFs Isabella Basque (Margaret Rose), AJ Dajka (Mary Josephine), Catharine Botor (Elizabeth Pearl), Isabel Pearson (Ada Rose), Avi Sider (Jane Grace). Back: Abbey Stansfield (Arabella Williams). See story on page 2.

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# UPFRONT

## ■ POCOMAR



Port Colborne Marine Auxiliary Rescue unit, shown in a file photo, was called out to rescue a Niagara Falls man who was caught on Lake Erie last Tuesday when a storm suddenly came up.

# Fisherman rescued during storm

**ALLAN BENNER**  
Postmedia Network

Port Colborne Marine Auxiliary Rescue towed a swamped recreational fishing boat to safety, amid a torrential downpour last Tuesday.

POCOMAR commander Scott Wolfe said a crew of six responded to a 911 call at about noon from a lone man whose 17-foot boat was hard hit by the storm that swept across Lake Erie and south Niagara.

Wolfe said the man from Niagara Falls saw the storm coming and started pulling his equipment into the small boat to leave for safety, "but the

storm arrived much quicker than he anticipated."

"He got slapped pretty hard," Wolfe said. "The waves came up pretty quick and he got swamped a bit. He was taking on water and he had engine troubles."

Although the metre-high waves were no problem for POCOMAR's 34-foot rescue boat, Wolfe said they were a cause for concern for the fishing boat that was about eight kilometres from shore.

"Those conditions were a lot more favourable for us than for him, that's for damn sure."

In addition to the heavy rainfall and waves, Wolfe said

they also had "full bore thunder and lightning" to deal with during the rescue.

"He was pretty happy to see us," Wolfe said.

The man managed to get his engine started, and the rescue boat went for shore as the POCOMAR crew escorted him. But the engine eventually stalled, and the rescue boat towed the smaller craft the rest of the way to the Port Colborne's Sugarloaf Harbour Marina.

Although the fishing boat was also equipped with a small trolling motor, Wolfe said it's better not to take chances while on the lake during severe weather.

A longtime member of POCOMAR's crew Cal Peyton attributed to the swift rescue to the skill of the volunteers.

"Everything went off well because our volunteers are great, and we're trained to do what we do," he said.

Peyton said the man's name is not being released because the auxiliary rescue unit is not permitted to identify the people it rescues.

Wolfe said the POCOMAR crew has been called out into a lot of thunderstorms this summer, as they near the end of another busy season.

"It seems as soon as there's a thunderstorm, I get ready to go out because we get called

out into almost every single one," he said. "That's the way it's been this year."

They've been called out on 21 rescues so far this summer, and by the time the season ends Wolfe expects to have responded to more than 30 calls.

"It's another busy year," he said.

He said some of the calls are to assist boaters who have lost their bearings in stormy weather, while others have been boaters with engine troubles.

"There's been a little bit of everything."

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## ■ PORT COLBORNE

# Arabella's BFFs travel through Port history

**FRANKI IKEMAN**  
Postmedia Network

A group of children spent their summer travelling through Port Colborne's history.

Arabella's League of BFFs, a part of Port Colborne Public Library's summer programming, took children aged nine to 12 on a role-play adventure in which they learned about Arabella Williams, a prominent woman in Port Colborne's history.

The program was part of the library and the Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum's celebration of what would have been Arabella's 150th birthday this year. Williams (1865-1950) donated the land that now houses the library and museum.

"They had a lot of fun. And the kids, their imaginations were outstanding," librarian Susan Therrien said. "I was blown away by how creative they were."

The group lived through some pretty major events during the summer program.

From starting a newspaper, writing about the First World War, voting in the 1921 federal election when most women had the right to vote for the first time to the Great Depression, the group got a glimpse of what life was like for Arabella and her best friends.

"Arabella, she was there when the city was actually created right up until 1950," Therrien said.

The group met Monday mornings throughout July and August and finished off the program with an Edwardian tea party and heritage dress-up last Monday.

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# LOCAL NEWS

■ **HEALTH:** Bridges CHC offers free physiotherapy to people in need



FRANKI IKEMAN/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Physiotherapist Alicia Trevisonn demonstrates some physiotherapy treatments on registered kinesiologist Trisha Bering at Bridges Community Health Centre.

## Free physiotherapy for Port Colborne residents

**FRANKI IKEMAN**  
Postmedia Network

Residents of Port Colborne, Wainfleet and Fort Erie who do not have health insurance can now access free physiotherapy from Bridges Community Health Centre.

The non-profit organization funded by the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network (HNHB LHIN) has expanded

its programming to offer the free services to people who need it.

"It's very open. We just ask that people who do have coverage otherwise, through work or another insurance plan, that they should access those services through their plan because the need is great and we're here to serve those who don't have access otherwise," said Taraela McLean, executive director of Bridges

CHC.

The program offers one-on-one sessions with Bridges' full-time physiotherapist and registered kinesiologists, to ensure that patients get the care that they need.

Physiotherapist Alicia Trevisonn said the program allows people who wouldn't normally be able to afford her treatments the opportunity to access the services.

"It's just nice to have this

program, that it's free for those who otherwise wouldn't be able to access the services, just to get some education and some skills to be active participants in their health as well as just trying to improve their overall health and function," Trevisonn said.

"It's easy and accessible," said registered kinesiologist Trisha Bering. "They can self-refer, so they don't need a doctor referral to come and access

the physiotherapy here."

Aside from offering individual physiotherapy, Bridges CHC also offers exercise groups at both its locations that are free for anyone in the community to join. They offer several different kinds of exercise groups, including core muscle training, nordic pole walking classes and Gentle Pil.

Bering said they are looking to further expand their group

exercise programs in the near future.

Bridges CHC is open Monday to Friday. For more information, to schedule a physiotherapy one-on-one appointment, or to register for group exercise call 289-479-5017 ext. 2421 (Port Colborne) or 905-871-7621 ext. 2251 (Fort Erie).

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■ I'VE BEEN THINKING

# Do Christian Churches Believe That!?

**PASTOR MICHAEL MIELO**  
Special to Postmedia Network

**P**robably every one of us has heard about, read about or seen first hand unChristian beliefs and practices confessed and done by people who claim to be Christians. Well, that's not surprising, is it? Everyone sins and everyone is tempted to believe, say and do things that are against Christ and His holy Word. What about the official teaching and actions of whole denominations? Well, yes, they sin, too. Why do some call into question Jesus' words and miracles? Why do some ignore and even teach the opposite of the Ten Commandments? Why do some say that it doesn't matter what you believe as long as people love each other? Why? The answer is the same for each and every one: it is because of the system they use to interpret the bible. That system is called the historical-critical method of interpreting the bible, more commonly known as, Higher Criticism. (Readers please note that historic Christianity has, from the time of Jesus to the present, contradicted and taught the opposite of nearly every Higher Critical teaching because they are contrary to the infallible,

Inspired and Inerrant Word of God.)

Higher Criticism is the new, modern, liberal way of interpreting the bible. Where did it come from? Well, for the first 1,750 years or so after Jesus was born, the whole Christian Church throughout the world recognized and accepted the bible, the Holy Scriptures, as the only true source and norm for doctrine and life. In other words, the bible was the last word in any argument, and everyone looked to it and quoted it for proof that their teachings, beliefs and lives were good and correct.

However, the 18th century ushered in the "Age of Enlightenment" in which people began to view human reason as the ultimate authority in all things. It was a new way of thinking centred around each individual person. It challenged traditional beliefs in all areas of society: morality, politics, science, literature, philosophy and, of course, theology. Instead of the bible being seen as the source for all truth, human reason and experiences were seen as the source for all truth. In place of the Christian perspective which looked to God for answers, Enlightenment thinkers looked to their own opinions, experiences and understanding. This new way of interpreting the bible began, grew and eventually

infected all Christian churches.

How does Higher Criticism look at the bible? It falsely views the books of the bible like any other man-made (but important) book. It believes that perhaps only a few of the details are accurate, so it believes it is necessary to dig deeper and see what is behind and beyond the text, to figure out what the "higher," truer meaning might be (but they admit that they can never be sure). It believes that some parts of the bible are legends, myths or fables, and that many parts are totally wrong for our modern faith and life. It does not believe that the bible is God's Word in any literal sense, rather it believes that the bible is stories and opinions containing many errors and contradictions, therefore it doesn't trust the bible. Rightly has Higher Criticism been called the "Theology of Doubt." It sees the individual person's mind as being the ultimate judge of God's Word, and because of that, it believes that no one has the right to question or contradict what another person believes, unless they are being "intolerant" or "unloving." The Higher Critic says, "What is true for me is not necessarily true for you." Higher Criticism does not believe in absolute truth.

Every major denomination in the world has been seriously affected by Higher Criticism and most of them have split over the issue. This false theology begins in seminars and filters down into the preaching, teaching and life of pastors. Because much biblical language is used by Higher Critics (e.g. "love," "spiritual," "Jesus," etc.) many people have not noticed the significant changes that have happened in their denomination. However, many churches are becoming more openly against Christ and His Word.

We who believe the Scriptures fully and completely should pray for the conversion (repentance and forgiveness) of those who have been led astray, and that we would not be deceived by this or any other false teaching. We give thanks to God for His faithfulness, mercy and love in Christ Jesus our Saviour, that He has revealed Himself and comes to us in His holy Word, and that He continues to give us faith, enlighten us, strengthen us, comfort us and forgive us through it. As St. Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the Words of eternal life!" (John 6:68).

— **Pastor Michael Mielo** serves Faith & St. Peter's Lutheran Churches, Dunnville & Port Colborne

## Shipwrecks – Margaret H. Hackett



PHOTO: JOHN LEONARD COLLECTION

Margaret H. Hackett was sunk following a collision with the Maplehurst in the Lake St. Peter section of the St. Lawrence on July 20, 1920.

**SKIP LILHAM**  
Special to Postmedia Network

**T**he wooden tug *Margaret H. Hackett* was built at Quebec City in 1912. The 34.14-metre-long by 7.32-metre-wide vessel had a steeple compound engine and a scotch boiler salvaged from the wrecked Allan Line steamer *Bavarian*. The vessel went to work for Quebec Transportation and Forwarding Co. but sold to George H. Co. on Jan. 3, 1920. The tug was sunk (shown) following a collision with the *Maplehurst* in the St. Lawrence on July 20, 1920. Though badly damaged, the ship was refloated, repaired and returned to service as *Ocean Hawk*. It later found to be equally at fault in a collision with H.M.C.S. *Beaver* at Saint John, N.B., on Sept. 17, 1942. *Ocean Hawk* was retired about 1958 but preserved as an exhibit in near the reversing falls in New Brunswick and may still be there.

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## POLITICS

## Advance polling days are set

RAY SPITERI  
Postmedia Network

Advance voting days in Niagara have been set for the Oct. 19 federal election.

While locations for polls have yet to be announced, advance voting days will be between Oct. 9 and 12 in the Niagara Falls, St. Catharines, Niagara Centre and Niagara West ridings.

Returning offices are in place in each riding, open from Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. — at Niagara Square for Niagara Falls, Linwell Plaza in St. Catharines, the Welland Office Centre in Niagara Centre and The Village Square in Niagara West.

The hours will be extended in the coming weeks as the election draws closer.

Political pundits are curious to see how voter interest will play out during this 11-week

federal election campaign—expected to be the costliest ever and the longest in more than a century.

Voter turnout in the 2011 federal election was 61 per cent, as 14.8 million out of 24.2 million eligible voters cast a ballot. That was up from the 58.8 per cent of Canadians who voted during the 2008 federal election.

But both of those campaigns were much shorter than the current one. The standard election period is 37 days, while the 2015 campaign will be 78 days.

Incumbent Niagara Falls Conservative MP Rob Nicholson said there will likely be times when Canadians tune in and out of the campaign.

"I think they will focus on it more as Labour Day approaches," said Canada's minister of foreign affairs.

Nicholson said he has expe-

rience in long campaigns. He recalls being a candidate in a federal election in the 1980s that lasted more than 50 days.

"It was just under two months, so this is not that much of a difference."

Niagara Falls Liberal candidate Ron Planché said constituents in his riding are "really paying attention" to the campaign, even though it's in the early stages.

"I'm surprised at the response I'm getting at the door. It's not a matter of the length of the election, it's more a matter of the discontent of the electorate. And if there's a high (voter turnout), usually there's a change of government."

Niagara Falls Green candidate Steven Soos said he doesn't think Canadians currently are paying attention to the election.

"Parents are getting their

## WHAT IDENTIFICATION IS NEEDED TO VOTE?

There are three options to prove your identity, address:

■ Show your driver's licence; provincial, territorial ID card or any other government card with your photo, name, current address.

■ Show two pieces of ID, at least one must have your current address, such as health card, Canadian passport and social

insurance number card.

■ If your ID does not have your current address, take an oath by showing two pieces of ID with your name and have someone who knows you attest to your address. This person must show proof of identity, address, be registered in same polling division, attend for only one person.

Source: Elections Canada

kids ready for back-to-school and people are still out on vacation," he said.

Soos said Prime Minister Stephen Harper was playing to his party's financial prowess and strategic advantages when he called for an early start to the campaign.

"Mr. Harper is a political machine. He's an expert on what to do and when to do it. He did it before when he pro-rogued parliament because

he didn't want to work with the other parties."

Soos said because the federal election is longer than usual, it will cost nearly double the price.

While Harper "often talks about respect for the taxpayers," Soos said, the Conservative government's Fair Elections Act — which he described as "unfair" — allowed the prime minister to launch a "campaign

on steroids to wear voters down (and) when voters are fatigued, Mr. Harper always wins."

Niagara Falls NDP candidate Carolyn Iannoni said she doesn't believe the electorate has been paying a lot of attention to the campaign so far, but that NDP Leader Tom Mulcair's visit to Niagara "really woke Niagara Falls up."

"I firmly believe he will be the first prime minister of Canada, and it was an honour to see that he invested that sort of time here," she said.

"I think he can sense the sweep of change that's being felt across Canada and that this riding is winnable."

Mulcair was the first party leader to visit Niagara during the campaign, on Aug. 17, less than a week after Iannoni was declared the NDP candidate in the riding.

For more information about voting, visit [elections.ca](http://elections.ca).

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Heather Price

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# LOCAL NEWS

## ■ BIZ BUZZ

### A homecoming for Carolinda's

FRANKI IKEMAN  
Postmedia Network

**T**ea connoisseurs and lovers of hand-crafted goods have a sweet escape at Carolinda's.

The shop has moved from its location on Clarence Street in Port Colborne to its new home on Pelham Street in Fonthill.

The move is a homecoming for co-owners Carol VanAlstine and Linda Sloat, who grew up in the Fonthill area. They said there was no retail space available when they first opened their doors a few years ago, but they're excited now to be back in their hometown.

Although the previous location didn't feature the tea room, it's an addition the pair had wanted and now have the space to offer.

Sloat owned a tea shop in Port Dalhousie for several years before selling it, and

felt Fonthill would be a good market to bring it back in.

"So when we were thinking of moving it to Fonthill, we thought 'let's do the tea room again,'" Sloat said. "We just felt there was a need for one in this area."

And that's what the consensus seems to be from visitors to the shop, the duo said.

"Lots of positive comments from anyone that's been in the shop," said VanAlstine.

VanAlstine has been creating her floral arrangements and wreaths since the 1980s, and now that she's retired she says she has the opportunity to fulfil that passion at Carolinda's.

"It's an outlet for my creativity, I guess," she said.

The store — which Sloat and VanAlstine describe as quaint and unique — has many things to offer, including high tea, raw honey tasting, exotic jellies and hand-crafted goods from

local artisans.

"Everything is local — local artisans, local vendors so not everything is just from suppliers. These are crafted, hand-crafted items," said Sloat.

Business has been good so far, she said, with full tables most days and many reservations, which she recommends for people to avoid disappointment as seating at the shop is limited.

On top of having high tea and food, Carolinda's also offers in-house catering for tea parties and special occasions as well as some off-site catering for showers and similar events.

Sloat and VanAlstine are looking forward to the fall season and welcoming some new menu items, fall decorations and fall home-decor items.

Carolinda's is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4



FRANKI IKEMAN/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Linda Sloat, left, and Carol VanAlstine in their shop, Carolinda's.

p.m. Sloat said they will be extending their hours to include Mondays, starting the week after Labour Day. She said the tea room

and boutique will also open after-hours and Sundays for private parties of 10 people or more.

Carolinda's is at 289-931-3982 or on Facebook at Carolinda's.

The tea room and gift shop

is located at 1471 Pelham St. in Fonthill.

The Tribune's Biz Buzz column appears every Wednesday. If you have a business tip, send it to franki.ikeman@sunmedia.ca or call 905-684-7251 ext. 1167.

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## ■ IMMIGRATION: Niagara College grad accused of working illegally Mexican student's status revoked over help

MARYANNE FRITH  
Postmedia Network

When Paulina Contro read the letter, there was one word that stood out from the page — **Refused**.

It meant her time in Canada was in jeopardy.

It meant her dreams of starting a new life could be coming to an end.

The letter from Citizenship and Immigration Canada left the 31-year-old wife and mother-of-two from Mexico feeling confused and scared for her future.

"You are a person in Canada without legal status," it read, after refusing her application to extend her study permit.

"As such, (you) are required to leave Canada immediately."

The sternly worded document accused Contro of working illegally, violating conditions imposed under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations.

But she hadn't earned a dime since first stepping foot onto Canadian soil Jan. 1, 2014. Instead, her time had been spent studying at Niagara College, where she was required to complete field placements as part of her early childhood education program.

"The reason I came to Canada is to have better quality of life and more opportunities for my children," Contro said, explaining the decision to make the move from her home in Mexico.

She began exploring opportunities in 2013, hoping to find the right school where she could get on the path to a new career. As her goal was to ultimately work with children, the Niagara College ECE program seemed a natural fit. Contro sent the appropriate paperwork to apply for the program and for her study permit, and soon received her acceptance both from the college and Immigration.

Her letter of acceptance from Niagara College indicated there was not an internship or work practicum component to the program. She landed in Ontario on New Year's Day 2014 and began school without issue a few days later.

Contro stayed in Welland with a host family, while waiting for the necessary visas to be approved for husband Franklin Salazar and their young daughter, Naia. After two months, the family was reunited. They moved to an apartment in St. Catharines.

"Everything was good. I started classes, and then placement started two or three weeks after," Contro said.

Through her unpaid placement, she was sent to observe ECE staff at local schools and day-cares for, on average, three hours a day, five days a week.

After six months in school, Contro was eligible to apply for an off-campus work permit that would allow her to work for up to 20 hours a week. She was approved, but didn't end up hunting for a part-time job because of her busy roles as student and mom.

The permit did not apply to her placement, for which a different type of permit is needed. Contro completed three consecutive school terms before applying for an extension to her study permit, which was set to expire in February 2015. Unsure of the process, she visited the college's international department for guidance.

"That's where they told you to go if you had any questions," Contro said.

Staff, she said, helped her fill out the extension application online and advised her that her program's placement was not considered work.

As a result, she was asked if she had been working. Contro checked 'No'.

"Three months later, I got a letter that said I had worked illegally," she said, then made a refusal to extend her study permit and a notice that she was to leave the country immediately. "I was panicking," Contro said, adding she immediately returned to the college's international department, where staff referred the issue to immigration.

"I sent e-mails and (made) phone calls to the college and nothing — no response," she said. "I kept calling until I finally got an answer when they said 'Unfortunately, we can't help you.' I knew they were leaving me on my own to try and figure things out. Contro said, adding she felt let down by the school, which in a foreign country where she knows no one, had become a source of support. "I'm very disappointed. I can't believe an institution like Niagara College would put me in that position."

While she could not speak about Contro's case specifically, college spokeswoman Susan McConnell did confirm the field placement component in the ECE program "are not internships or work placements."

"They are essentially job shadowing. The students aren't doing work that would otherwise be done by a part-time or full-time employee."

The college does, however, still advise ECE international students "they must obtain work permits before the placement portion of the program," McConnell said.

An e-mail, she said, is sent to all international students each term with directions regarding work permits. The e-mail states students "must have a co-op work permit in order to do a co-op job, field placement or internship."

It asks that students apply for the permit before a specified date and advise them to speak with a college staff member in the international department for help with the permit application.

Contro said she never received an e-mail stating she required a work permit. During regular meetings with the college staff member who oversaw her placement and reviewed her documents deemed necessary for the placement, a work permit was never mentioned, she added.

Toward the end of May and unsure of her options, Contro, who was planning to give birth to her second child, contacted immigration lawyer Lisa Winter-Card for assistance. The attorney met with college staff in early June to explain the situation and request a supporting letter that explained the program's placement requirements. It was received the following day.

Soon after, Winter-Card met with MP Malcolm Allen who requested that Immigration reconsider the decision. The college letter was sent along with the request.

When a response hadn't been received by early July, Winter-Card sent in her own request for reconsideration.

Allen received his response some time later, with Immigration opting to uphold its decision.

Winter-Card has yet to hear back. Allen backed the reconsideration request because he did not believe that under the

government's definition, that Contro had worked.

The Immigration and Refugee Protection Act defines work as an activity for which wages are paid or commission is earned, or that directly competes with activities of Canadian citizens or permanent residents in the Canadian labour market.

"This is not someone stealing work," Allen said.

He questioned how the government expects institutions to attract international students if they're not able to complete the necessary placement components.

"It's not meant to be paid employment. The intent of the program is to provide experience to augment the teaching component."

Allen has also appealed to federal Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Chris Alexander, asking not only that Contro's case be reviewed, but also that the policies he reviewed to prevent a similar issue from arising in the case of other international students.

He has yet to receive a response.

"It's a setback for the individual and for the college, to be honest," Allen said.

Winter-Card said Contro's circumstances are ones she's "never come across before," since beginning her career in immigration law in 1996.

"It's somewhat shocking because this is the type of applicant the government says it wants — young, ambitious, wanting to contribute to Canadian society," she said.

"If she had been working after school at Harvey's without permission, then no, I wouldn't have sympathy for her for being at fault. But for completing a course? It seems unreasonable."

International students are typically able to apply for a post-graduate work permit within 90 days of completing their studies. In early August, Winter-Card applied for Contro's permit while also restating the request for reconsideration. If the decision is not reversed, she plans to take the case to court.

"When you study in Canada, it puts you on a path to permanent residency," Winter-Card said.

After completing a program, an international student is able to apply for permanent residency through the Canadian Experience Class after working for one year. It's a path Contro had planned to travel.

"We're trying to immigrate here. We want to do things right."

"We had plans already. We were trying to get our life organized, but after (receiving the letter) it felt like our dreams fell apart."

While Contro is currently without status, her husband and children are still eligible to remain in the country under his visa. She gave birth to son Kianho two months ago amid her fight to fix her situation.

As international students pay higher tuition than Canadian residents, Contro's program cost her about \$25,000 over two years.

"It's not like I come from a rich family," she said, adding she put everything she had into making a better life for her children.

"I did something wrong, I would understand the consequences, but ...," she said, adding she's unable to grasp the reasoning.

The only silver lining Contro has found is the fact the letter from Immigration arrived just one day before the end of her classes, so she was able to complete her program.

"That was my congratulations," she said of the letter.

Winter-Card believes Immigration "needs to make clear what requires a work permit and what doesn't."

"It seems everyone is using whatever terminology they'd like, and that makes it difficult for the student to navigate the system," she said. "I don't think it's clear — and I'm an immigration lawyer."

Winter-Card said there was "no way" for Contro to know she needed a work permit, making the process "totally unfair."

Contro still has hope the decision will be reversed.



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# LOCAL NEWS

## BUSINESS

# Sears at Seaway Mall to close its doors

FRANKI IKEMAN  
Postmedia Network

Sears at Seaway Mall will be closed down at the end of September.

Sears Canada spokesman Vincent Power confirmed last Monday the company will shut its Welland location — affecting 55 workers — on Sept. 30.

He said the store's lease will not be renewed when it expires because the store has not been performing to the company's expectations.

Power said each employee will meet one-on-one with someone from the human resources department. He said some might find employ-

ment with other Sears locations.

"What we're going to try to do is find jobs for them where they exist," he said.

"I would add that the employees of that store have been very special employees, and this isn't a decision that we take lightly," he said.

Workers were told of the closure last Monday morning. Seaway Mall president Michael Belcastro, who hadn't been officially told by midday the outlet would close, said often stores give the employees notice prior to taking to him.

"I mean it's tough, you lose Target and then Sears," Belcas-

tro said. "But I mean, there's been a lot of speculation out there that Sears was going to be closing, not only here but everywhere, so we were kind of anticipating that probably for the last two years."

Belcastro said that strangely, traffic and sales in the rest of the mall went up about five per cent after Target closed — probably because it did close, rather than just move to a different location.

Whether they would see the same effect from the Sears closure, he couldn't say.

"Yeah, I don't know. Will people drive to another city to go to Sears? I don't know. It'll be interesting to see."

Belcastro said Sears marked its 25th anniversary at the mall earlier this year, and that it's sad to see them go after all that time.

"It somewhat comes as a shock to me that they're closing a store that we thought was doing well," he said.

Welland-Pelham Chamber of Commerce executive director Dolores Fabiano said it's disheartening when the community sees business closures like this, but that the Seaway Mall has always been able to rise above these challenges and reinvent themselves.

"It's always disheartening when you hear of any closures in the community, and you know the mall has had its challenges this past year. But they are a very important part of the retail sector, especially here in south Niagara," she said.

Fabiano said the mall has



FRANKI IKEMAN/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

The Sears outlet store at Seaway Mall.

an advantage serving the large market of south Niagara, as well as many seniors in the community who are unlikely to change their shopping patterns.

Welland Mayor Frank Campion said he hadn't heard officially about the Sears closure, but "it's definitely bad news for us."

There is not much local control in terms of helping a business keep its doors open when dealing with bigger corporations whose decisions are made elsewhere, Campion said.

"The retail sector's always a volatile one, especially when you're dealing with larger corporations," he said.

Campion said he hopes the people soon to be out of work will find alternative employment and seek help in doing so if they need it.

"We do have a couple of agencies in town that are very much in tune with job opportunities, so I would encourage people to seek help from them," Campion said.

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## ■ ACCIDENT

# Man 'banged up' in plane crash

DOM FRASER  
Postmedia Network

Investigators are waiting to speak to a man taken to hospital after his single plane crashed into a field in Grimsby.

And while his condition was initially described as

potentially life-threatening, indications from a transportation safety spokesman are that his injuries may not have been as serious.

Emergency crews were called to the scene in a field by Kemp Rd. late Saturday morning.

David Bale of the Niagara

Emergency Medical Services said a call was received about a small aircraft going down at 11:37 a.m. The plane was reported to be just north of the Grimsby Airpark.

Bale said an air ambulance was requested at first, but then cancelled.

"We did transport a

patient with potentially life-threatening injuries to Hamilton General Hospital," he said.

Niagara Regional Police Sgt. Chris Stewart confirmed in a tweet that before 11:30 a.m., the plane left the airport and crashed into a field by the road.

In a follow-up interview, Stewart said the man was "conscious and alert" before he was taken to hospital.

"We heard the aircraft had taken off, ran into some problems and crashed into a soybean field," said Rwan Tasker, standby investigator with the Transportation Safety Board of Canada.

He said the pilot, who is approximately in his late 70s, got himself out of the aircraft and was "walking and talking" to people at the scene of his aircraft, described as

a "small single-engine" Vans craft.

"They did take him to hospital ... he was banged up a little bit, at least," said Tasker in an interview Sunday. "We heard he was stable, at least, and being transported to the hospital."

The investigator said they'd give the man time to recuperate before they questioned him about the incident and get an update on his condition.

dom.fraser@sumedia.ca



NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE/PHOTO SPECIAL TO POSTMEDIA NETWORK  
A man in a small plane was injured after his plane went down in a Grimsby field Saturday.

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# LOCAL NEWS

■ **FLYING:** Rose City Model Flyers host annual Vintage Fly-in



PHOTOS BY FRANKI IKEMAN, POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Bill Swindells sits in the shade behind Karl Gross' Stearman aircraft after a flight at the Rose City Model Flyers Vintage Fly-in at Marshville Airpark Saturday in Wainfleet.



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## Vintage airplanes take to skies

FRANKI IKEMAN  
Postmedia Network

It was a day of high-flying fun in Wainfleet Saturday.

The Rose City Model Flyers hosted their fifth annual Vintage Fly-in at Marshville Airpark off Feeder Road.

Andy Fakla, the club member and safety officer who initiated the event, said he wanted to give participants an opportunity to fly their older aircraft.

"The reason I started this event was that a lot of these guys go to other events, but they don't fly these beautiful airplanes because there's jets going and helicopters and 3D airplanes and they're going really fast," Fakla said. "These don't get out of the way very fast if somebody's coming after you, so we held this event and it's just to showcase the old airplanes that were prior to the jets and the helicopters and 3D air show airplanes."

"They're slow, they're pretty, they've got character."

About 25 pilots registered to participate in the show, each waiting their turn to get the models they've worked so hard on airborne.

Every plane was hand-built, either from a kit or from scratch, and each based on a real plane that soared in the

sky long ago.

"Every airplane here represents a real airplane in time, at one time or another," Fakla said.

One of the largest planes was Karl Gross's Stearman. Gross, from Burlington, said it took him about nine months to build the to-scale aircraft from scratch, based on about 250 pictures he took of an actual Stearman aircraft in South Carolina.

"It's a great flying machine," he said.

Gross, who has been building and flying model airplanes since he was eight, said he has always had a passion for aircraft.

He has 43 planes, the largest boasting a 14 foot wingspan.

"My garage is my hangar," Gross said. Fakla said model flying is a year-round hobby.

"We build all winter and fly all summer when the weather's good," he said.

"A love of aviation, the challenge of building something, looking at the historical aspect of it, doing research and finding out who flew what, when, what did it do, what's its purpose and then trying to get it close," Fakla said.

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A model plane takes off at the Rose City Model Flyers Vintage Fly-in at Marshville Airpark Saturday in Wainfleet.

## EDUCATION

# Drive a car, support music

**DON FRASER**  
Postmedia Network

This fundraiser was like music to Makay Bissonnette's ears.

Last Thursday, John Bear Buick GMC of St. Catharines and the national charity MusiCounts teamed up to support DSRN Academy's music program. People were asked to test drive new Buick or GMC vehicles at a course from the Meridian Centre.

In St. Catharines, for every test drive, Buick donated \$20 for the school's instruments to a maximum of \$10,000.

"I'm really hoping I'll get to use a guitar, maybe a bass," said Makay, a Grade 11 Port Colborne student who attends the St. Catharines school.

"I'm in the music program, but I don't have that bass."

The national event is part of the Buick Drive for Your Students program that links local Buick dealerships with the test drive community fundraising events for schools.

"Every penny will go toward



JULIE JOCSAK/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Vanessa Thomas, director of MusiCounts, and Toby Ley, a music teacher for DSRN Academy, sit in a new Buick last Thursday. The John Bear Buick GMC dealership was participating in a fundraiser for the DSRN music program. The public could test drive a new Buick for \$20 with all of the money benefitting the music program.

instruments for the kids," said school music teacher Toby Ley. "This is our third year at the high school, so we're starting from scratch."

Ley said the music program is offered to every Grade 9 student, "so everyone will have an opportunity to get their hands on an instrument."

"And in most cases, probably for the first time in their lives."

Bob Berg, the new car sales manager for the John Bear Buick dealership on Lake Street, said 20 cars and trucks were brought down for the event. "We wanted to weight it more to the Buick range," he said.

"Today is nothing about the business, other than raising as much as we possibly can for the DSRN Academy. We've got a route onto the highway

and Fourth Avenue — we've tried to create a route with no left turns."

The event was to end at about 6 p.m., prior to the latest Hockey Night in St. Catharines fundraiser at the Meridian Centre.

MusiCounts has had other beneficial connections to Niagara schools lately.

In May, brothers Ewan

**MusiCounts:** Canada's music education charity associated with the Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, is helping advance music in schools across Canada. MusiCounts' mission is to ensure children in Canada, regardless of socio-economic circumstances or cultural background, have access to a music program through their school.

**DSRN Academy:** Part of District Board of Niagara, founded in 2010. The first of its kind in the Ontario public system, its philosophy is education plays a vital role in helping children overcome the effects of life's challenges.

It aims to empower students to become the first in their family to graduate from a post-secondary institution. The school opened in September 2011 in the former Empire Public School building in Welland with two Grade 6 classes and three Grade 7 classes.

It relocated to the main floor of the former West Park Secondary School building in St. Catharines in September 2013. At full capacity, DSRN Academy will become a Grade 6 to 12 school in 2016.

Students from all 13 municipalities in Niagara are accepted through a formal application process.

— from their websites

and Shamus Currie from the band The Sheepdogs performed at DSRN Academy and presented \$10,000 worth of instruments to students in Grades 6 to 8.

That event also celebrated \$30,000 in donations made to local school music programs.

Through MusiCounts,

money provided by Hockey Night in St. Catharines and Music Canada were distributed to DSRN Academy, Notre Dame College School in Welland and Westlane Secondary School in Niagara Falls.

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Niagara goes trolling on Ashley Madison

GRANT LAFLECHE  
Postmedia Network

**S**igh. To tell you the truth, I was hoping to avoid this column. Not because the issue isn't worth talking about, but because it is covered in a fine, sticky mist of sleaze.

I know we live in a culture where the salacious trumps the consequential and people are obsessed with the private lives of others. But I've always found a fixation on what other people do behind closed doors to be rather uncivilized.

However, in the news busi-

ness the distasteful cannot always be ignored.

Yes, I am talking about the data dump from Ashley Madison, which is basically a website for people looking to cheat on their partner.

And yes, there is information about Niagara residents in that data. A lot of it.

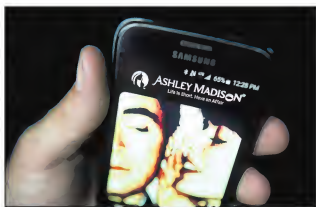
To be clear, I am not naming names here. I honestly do not care who is sleeping with who, and I have little interest in throwing more chum into the feeding frenzy that has become the Ashley Madison scandal.

There is, however, one unavoidable fact we should

take note of — a small battalion of public servants used public resources to trawl for an affair on Ashley Madison.

A search through the data reveals e-mail addresses of employees of the Niagara Health System, Brock University, Niagara College, the Niagara Parks Commission and the Niagara Regional Police.

There are also a staggering number of Ontario provincial government e-mails, though I don't know how many are connected to this region. My search was hardly exhaustive, but it did also identify e-mails that go back to St. Catharines



A photo illustration shows the Ashley Madison app displayed on a smartphone. Love lives and reputations may be at risk after the release of customer data from infidelity website Ashley Madison, an unprecedented breach of privacy likely to rattle users' attitudes towards the Internet.

city hall, the Niagara chapter of the Canadian Mental Health Association and a Niagara Falls casino.

At this point, you'd expect human resources managers around Niagara to run about in playing card-themed dresses, shouting "Off with their heads!"

That is, unless their own e-mails popped up on that list, I guess.

The use of these e-mails for business with nothing to do with the public interest bespeaks many questions.

Inasmuch as the clients of Ashley Madison are the victims of criminals — the theft of that data is a crime, no matter how you slice it — the first question I want to ask is: "Just how many kinds of stupid are you people?"

I am assuming if you are the kind of person who is *that* into an affair, you'd want to conduct that activity in such a fashion as to not get caught, right?

The name of the game is to be, isn't it?

Chapter One in the Big Book of Getting Away With Stuff is titled: Don't leave a paper trail.

(Chapter Two is: You aren't nearly that clever. Don't try it.)

Any online service that takes your money is a digital paper trail by definition.

Hacking is as much a reality now as gravity. Every agency from Sony to the United States military has been hacked and had data stolen.

If hackers can get at military data, just how secure do you think your online dating profile is?

Did you think the fine print claiming your data is safe was an impenetrable shield?

Did you not pay attention to what has been happening in the world the past few years?

Hello, McFly! This was inevitable! The cold, hard truth is that no online service can promise its servers are unhackable. Yes, we have a reasonable expectation of privacy when using any online services, and the owners of those services should take every precaution to secure customer information.

But with the cyber-arms race being what it is, no data can be considered 100% safe at all times.

So buyer beware, I guess.

This being a reality even a child can understand, why oh why would anyone use their work e-mail for an Ashley Madison account, particularly when they work for a public agency?

They could have created an anonymous e-mail address. Lots of users used handles like kinkydancute@hotmail.com, sinners\_swinging@hotmail.com, and my personal favourite, satangatanplayhouse.com. True, their data would still have been stolen. But at least they would not risk losing their jobs while their personal lives descend into chaos. Divorce lawyers don't come cheap.

This, I suppose, is the greater lesson of this sad, sordid and pitiful affair. Our world is increasingly interconnected thanks to digital technology. But that interconnectedness is looking less and less like a collection of fire-walled silos of information and more like a giant, online data gumbo where everything is mixed together.

We've sacrificed security and privacy for speed and convenience.

Pretending we've done anything less, and continuing on like this isn't a reality, is to cultivate willful ignorance and beg for this to happen again.

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**2015 ALL OUT CLEAROUT**

■ **AGRICULTURE:** Local 4-H member, cattle farmer represents Niagara at CNE

# Welland fair youth ambassador competes at CNE

**FRANKI IKEMAN**  
Postmedia Network

A local fifth-generation farmer will be representing the Niagara Regional Exhibition at this year's Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) Ambassador of the Fairs competition.

Amanda Gill, 23, was in Toronto on the weekend competing against 80 other ambassadors from local fairs across the province for the title of Ambassador of the Fairs. The yearlong position involves travelling across the province as a representative of the CNE and all of the agricultural fairs.

Local agricultural societies hold competitions to pick their ambassador, who on top of being sent to the CNE for the three-day competition, represent their local fairs throughout the year.

Gill says it's a fun opportunity and a great way to meet people.

This is her second year as ambassador, after some logistical confusion last year

stopped her from going to the CNE competition.

"It was kind of a learning curve for us all," said Amber Gilbert, first vice-president of the NRE.

"We use our ambassador program to help promote agriculture in the community. She's the face of our fair," Gilbert said.

Gill grew up in the 4-H club and has now moved on to leadership roles within the organization, Gilbert said.

"She has a very strong background in farming," she said. "Being raised on the cattle farm, she knows the ins and outs of everything cattle related."

Among the list of opportunities and responsibilities of the NRE ambassador are attending the four-day fair, attending the AGM in January, attending functions the fair society sponsors and assisting in PR throughout the year.

"It helps promote the agriculture. Youth will tend to listen more so to you than adults," Gilbert said.



FRANKI IKEMAN/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Amanda Gill and one of her cows Rose Ridge Jett-Air Minnie at her family's farm.

Gill's family owns Rose Ridge Farms, located on McKenney Rd. on the border of Welland and Niagara Falls. The cattle farm has been in the Gill family for generations.

To be chosen as the NRE ambassador, Gill wrote an essay on where agriculture

would be in Niagara in five years.

It's a topic she feels strongly about, and one she thinks people need to think about more frequently.

"It's important because they need to know that things don't just appear on the gro-

cery store shelves," Gill said, "They need to know exactly where it's coming from."

Though she understands the importance of agriculture, Gill doesn't necessarily want to take over the family farm in the future.

"It's a hard, dirty job that

nobody really wants to do anymore," she said.

Gill is a graduate of Niagara College's educational assistant - special needs support program. Currently, she is working a part-time job, has weekly 4-H commitments, and helps on the dairy farm, on top of her ambassadorship responsibilities.

The local fair ambassadors will present speeches and answer impromptu questions on the history of the CNE as part of this weekend's competition.

The Ambassador of the fairs program has been running for 44 years.

"It's our connection to rural Ontario, so it's a very important competition that we have down here, and the fact that we get to have all these fairs from across Ontario come and participate is a wonderful thing," said Paula Ellis, program event manager for the CNE.

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## PUBLIC SAFETY

# Police board survey under fire from union

BILL SAWCHUK  
Postmedia Network

The Niagara Police Services Board is seeking public input to make the force better, said chair Bob Gale.

But some of the questions have raised the ire of the association representing Niagara's rank and file officers.

The 2015 Community Input Survey on Policing Services was designed to gauge residents' perceptions of safety, crime, community priorities and police performance, Gale said.

It will help the police board put together a three-year business plan for the Niagara Regional Police. The province mandates all boards have a plan.

Gale said the board wanted to ask the "hard questions" that will make the NRP better.

But Cliff Priest, president of the Niagara Region Police Association, called the framing of some of the questions "ludicrous," and appear to

have been crafted to elicit certain answers.

"Nothing is ever perfect," Gale said. "I'm proud of the questions we've asked. It is not a vanilla survey. We didn't want vanilla questions and vanilla answers."

"Some of the questions are standards ones that all the police forces ask, but if we are going to do a survey, we are going to do it right — and ask some tough questions."

The online survey, posted to the NRP's website [niagarapolice.ca](http://niagarapolice.ca), takes about 15 minutes to complete and asks residents about topics such as the level of crime in their neighbourhood and the quality of services provided by police.

The survey also asks questions about hot topics such as carding, body cams for officers and the police budget.

"The whole survey lacks credibility," Priest said.

"The questions are personal agenda questions of the chair and vice-chair (Andy Petrowski). The ques-

tions and answers also don't meet the provincial adequacy standards to allow the police to make a business case going forward."

After the respondent gives some basic information about themselves, the first survey question deals with the police budget.

"The region of Niagara has a population of 446,192 residents and attracts approximately 15 million visitors per year," the survey asks. "The Niagara Regional Police Service has a membership of 706 police officers and 310 supporting civilian staff. In 2014, the police services responded to 114,107 calls and issued approximately 18,000 criminal charges. The service is funded by the regional property tax base at a cost of approximately \$133.985,738 representing 45.6 per cent of the tax levy."

The question then includes a chart of per capita police spending from other municipalities including Durham, Halton, Hamilton, Ottawa, Waterloo and York for com-

## TAKE THE SURVEY

The survey is available on the NRP website at [www.niagarapolice.ca](http://www.niagarapolice.ca). It can also be accessed directly at [www.research.net/nrps-survey](http://www.research.net/nrps-survey)

parison.

Niagara compares poorly on the chart, with the highest cost per capita.

The survey goes on to ask for an opinion on the police services budget with five possible answers: excessively high, high, just about right, low or excessively low.

"Some people are saying we are not comparing apples to apples, but (the statistics) are what is put out by the government," Gale said. "The facts are what they are. I think we have an exceptional police force, but now more than ever people are looking for value for their dollar."

Priest said the questions are poorly worded

Municipality	Cost Per Capita (\$)			
	2010	2011	2012	2013
Durham	248	256	265	274
Halton	238	237	253	264
Hamilton	269	278	290	291
Niagara	308	290	327	363
Ottawa	271	283	290	298
Waterloo	225	239	255	267
York	230	238	248	269
Median	256	260	275	289

and phrased, and do not meet the requirements for a proper survey.

"(The survey) is not going to do what it is intended to," he said. "Our members are the ones that have to police and enforce the policies and regulations and do the job the community wants us to do. We want to do the best possible job and not get into personal political agendas, which unfortunately is what's coming out of this survey."

The survey runs online over the next six weeks until Sept. 28.

Gale said it is being conducted by a third party con-

sultant and is completely anonymous and confidential for respondents.

"Everybody should do the survey," he said. "It's anonymous. It's confidential. I know in business, you want to hear from someone on the outside looking in. I'm proud of the Niagara Regional Police force. I think we do a great job, but if there are some things we can improve, we have to do it."

Efforts to reach police Chief Jeff McGuire for comment were unsuccessful.

Bill Sawchuk@sunmedia.ca  
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Vale will also be hosting our annual Open House! Come visit us in the Main Lobby where you can get an update on our operations, talk to Vale staff, and discuss issues that are important to you. We hope to see you there!

### #PARTICIPATE

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10:30 am			Open Swim	Pickle Ball					Face Painting/ Arts & Crafts
11:00 am			10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Yoga			Try Sledge Hockey!	Try 'Thai Chi'	10:00 am - 12:00 pm
11:30 am				11:00 am - 12:00 pm			10:30 am - 12:00 pm	11:00 am - 12:00 pm	
12:00 pm									
12:30 pm		City of Port Colborne Fall/Winter Program Registration		Family Bounce	Try Working Out!		Public Skating		
1:00 pm	Vale Open House			12:00 pm - 2:00 pm	10:00 am - 4:00 pm		12:00 pm - 2:00 pm		Try Osteo-Eccel
1:30 pm	10:00 am - 4:00 pm	10:00 am - 4:00 pm							1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
2:00 pm									Try Spinning!
2:30 pm				Family Gym Time		Niagara Whalers Exhibition Game vs. Lockport			2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
3:00 pm				2:00 pm - 4:00 pm		2:00 pm - 4:00 pm			
3:30 pm									

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## ■ AMO CONFERENCE

# Petrowski raises carding issue

**TONY RICCIUTO**  
Postmedia Network

St. Catharines regional Coun. Andy Petrowski said "he's encouraged" to hear changes will be made to the Police Services Act.

And he hopes it will enable members who sit on police boards do a better job when serving their community.

Petrowski was in the audience last Wednesday when Community Safety and Correctional Services Minister Yasir Naqvi spoke to delegates at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario conference in Niagara Falls.

The minister discussed building safer, stronger communi-

ties and the need for changes in legislation to the Police Services Act because it has remained unchanged since 1990.

During a question and answer period following the minister's speech, Petrowski told him he was encouraged by his remarks, but he wanted to know if he was going to speak more on the blurred line that now exists on police boards when it comes to matters of operations versus policy matters.

One of the issues in the news recently is the controversial practice of carding — known as street checks in Niagara.

Naqvi said it is an important issue and will be dealt with. But it's also important to remember

police have a job to do.

Later, Petrowski said he is speaking as a board member, not the board, but he's "not a fan of carding. I would prefer full disclosure whereby the officer advises the citizen that their information will be recorded and stored permanently and advises of the citizen's voluntary right to provide information. Most folks don't know they are protected by the Charter to say, 'No'."

Petrowski said he is also a big supporter of body cams. "As a stepfather of three police officers I know body cams would make them safer and also the public. It would also cut legal costs by millions."



St. Catharines regional Coun. Andy Petrowski



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■ ART: Famous work of falls can't leave the country

## Britain blocks export of historic Niagara painting

JOHN LAW  
Postmedia Network

A historic painting of Niagara Falls is causing a stir in Britain.

The country's culture minister Ed Vaizey has ordered a temporary export ban on a 1762 piece by artist Captain Thomas Davies, believed to be the first eyewitness painting of the falls. Titled *An East View of the Great Cataract of Niagara*, the painting was sold for approximately \$237,000 US at Christie's Auction House in April to a confidential buyer, which the BBC reports is abroad and likely wants to take the work abroad.

Last Wednesday, Vaizey told the BBC the piece "not only provides us with the first real glimpse of Niagara Falls, but it also sheds light on Britain's achievements in 18th century exploration, military and topographical art."

The government hopes a U.K. buyer will now come forward to match the sale price and keep it within the country.

Clark Bernat, culture and museums manager for Niagara Falls, followed the painting's sale with interest in April. But alas, the piece isn't on its way to the Niagara Falls History Museum.

"Not quite in my budget," he says with a laugh. "We certainly talked to some local people who we thought might be able to make a go at it (in the) hope that it might come back to Niagara."

Bernat doesn't know the buyer, but would "certainly love to see" the painting

return to Niagara Falls — even temporarily.

"It's a fabulous early depiction, for sure," he says. "I'd love to see it in real life."

"I don't have any sense of the scope or the size, but just to have an ability to see that would be wonderful. Finding someone where in North America, even, to get it over would be wonderful."

Britain's Department of Culture, Media and Sport says Davies was a highly regarded painter and the first military artist to capture Niagara Falls. The piece was previously owned by British collector Peter Winkworth, who died in 2005. Among his collection were several paintings of Canadian scenes.

The British government has placed an export ban on the piece until Nov. 18, but it could be extended to February 2016, if a U.K. buyer isn't found.

Bernat understands their dilemma — governments don't like to see important cultural works leave the country.

"We do that, we put cultural property protection on items leaving our country as well," he says. "It's a general standard and practice for things of utmost importance. Countries have seen things disappear to other countries, never to come back again."

"If something belonging to Tumecah or Joe Brant (was sold), would we want to see that in an American institution? Or Greece? It's there for good reasons, in many ways."

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## ■ EDUCATION

# Progress in school talks

### DON FRASER

Postmedia Network and Canadian Press

Ontario schools and their teachers took a step forward, and a step backward, in labour relations last Thursday.

The Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation reached a tentative deal with the province's Public School Boards Association, though details will not be revealed until they are presented to local union leaders later this week.

That could put an end to fears of a strike or work-to-rule campaign in high schools.

However, the Elementary Teachers Federation also announced it is moving forward with the second phase of its work-to-rule campaign.

Teachers will not participate in field trips, fundraising activities, meeting or training sessions or professional development sessions. Nor will they respond to electronic communications from the principal or vice-principal outside the school day except where student safety is involved, said EFTO president Sam Hammond.

"We will not at this time ask our members to stop their voluntary extracurricular activities" such as after-school clubs and activities, Hammond added.

The school boards association still must reach agreements with unions representing elementary, Catholic and francophone teachers.

The EFTO isn't scheduled to resume negotiations until Sept. 1, and the Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association — which has declared a work-to-rule situation — returned to bargaining Thursday, the date it had set to begin a work-to-rule campaign. None of the teachers' unions are yet threatening a full-scale strike when school resumes Sept. 8.

District School Board of Niagara superintendent of human resources Jim Morgan said his board is "pleased to see that a tentative agreement has been reached" with the secondary school teachers.

"The agreement still needs to be ratified, and we look forward to learning the results of that process," Morgan said. "The DSNB remains committed to bargaining in good faith with our local chapter of OSSTF to achieve a fair and student-focused agreement."

Niagara District Catholic School Board education director John Crocco said his board "continues to remain optimistic settlements will be reached,

as provincial negotiations have resumed."

Meanwhile, OSSTF president Paul Elliott described "29 frustrating days at the bargaining table" on Thursday.

He said negotiations required the "assistance of three different mediators and an entire calendar year to finally get the management team to move off of their radical management rights agenda and come to an agreement, an agreement that in reality we should have achieved months ago."

The union was still trying to get a deal for school support staff in some of the boards they represent, added Elliott.

"As much as this has been a frustrating year for our teachers and occasional teacher members and leaders, our frustration over support staff bargaining is even deeper."

Premier Kathleen Wynne said she was encouraged by the OSSTF tentative deal because it proves negotiations work.

"What we said could happen at the table has happened," she said. "Of course, we have some other groups that we are now in conversation with, but this is a very significant and happy day in terms of getting our kids back to school."

Wynne admitted the negotiations are challenging and the government's insistence that it will not fund any salary increases until it eliminates an \$11.9-billion deficit, which is scheduled to happen by 2017-18.

And the school labour strife isn't just with teachers.

Central bargaining with Canadian Union of Public Employees school board support workers only resumed this week. Its members — which include education assistants, secretaries, library workers and custodians — have been without a contract since August 2014 in the 110 locals across the province.

Both locals representing Niagara Catholic and DSNB workers will meet with their Niagara members on Sept. 2 to discuss the state of central and local bargaining.

"We were frustrated by how long it took to get us at the table [centrally]," said Frank Ventresca, president of CUPE Local 4156, which represents the DSNB support workers. "We need to get to the table and discuss what the issues are — job security, wages and worker safety."

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# LOCAL NEWS

■ **CONTEST:** Falls native among four finalists competing for \$50,000

## Potato chip voting comes down to the crunch



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Jordan Cairns is one of four finalists in the Lay's potato chip contest that runs until Sept. 30. Consumers can vote for their favourite flavour.

**TONY RICCIUTO**  
Postmedia Network

Jordan Cairns is looking for votes.

He's not trying to win a seat in the next federal election, but he hopes Canadians will vote for his P.E.I. Scallop Potatoes flavour that can be found inside specially packaged bags of Lay's potato chips.

Cairns, 29, is one of four finalists for the Do Us A Flavour of Canada contest that runs until Sept. 30.

Even though he now lives in Burlington and commutes to work at a bank in downtown Toronto, most of his family still live in Niagara Falls. His grandfather once owned the Cairn Croft Hotel on Lundy's Lane.

Potato chip lovers from across the country were asked to submit flavours that were inspired by their favourite foods and the Canadian regions that reminded them of their best flavour experiences.

After receiving almost 950,000 submissions, Lay's Canada announced the four finalists.

The finalists are Brenda Boghean, inspired by Western Canada with her Cowboy BBQ Beans on Lay's Wavy; Dorel Francispillai, inspired by Ontario with his Butter

Chicken on Lay's Original; Zdravko Gurijevic, inspired by Quebec with his Montreal Smoked Meat on Lay's Original; and Cairns, inspired by Atlantic Canada with his P.E.I. Scallop Potatoes on Lay's Original.

Cairns said he was familiar with the contest over the years and when it came around this time he decided to give it a shot.

He said he couldn't believe it when someone from the company called and informed him he was a finalist.

"I didn't believe it at first. I thought it was just a telemarketer calling me for information and thought that I was going to end up with just a lot of junk mail," said Cairns. "I quickly realized it was for real and was pretty excited about it."

The flavour finalist that garners the most votes will win a \$50,000 grand prize, plus one per cent of their flavour's future sales once voting ends.

"I think my flavour is doing quite well. Going to the grocery stores, I always see there is a good chunk out of their supply with lots of bags missing," said Cairns. "Lots of friends, family and co-workers still seem pretty positive and they like the chip. I think

### HOW TO VOTE

Canadians can vote once per day on each of the following platforms:

■ Lays.ca/flavour

■ Text vote to 101010

■ Tweet using one of the flavour finalist voting hashtags

■ Instagram one of the flavour finalist voting hashtags

Voting hashtags for Twitter and Instagram are: #VoteCowboyBBQBeans, #VoteButterChicken, #VoteMontrealSmokedMeat and #VotePEIScallopPotatoes.

it's going to do well."

He said he loves to eat scalloped potatoes and it's always on the dinner table when friends and family gather for a meal.

Cream, onion and cheese are the main ingredients for his flavour and the connection with Prince Edward Island is that it's one of the largest producers of potatoes.

Cairns said "It was unreal" to see his photo on a bag of chips when the new flavours were introduced to the public. He purchased a small quantity to keep as mementos.

If he wins the contest, Cairns plans to finish paying off some student loans and do a bit of travelling.

tony.ricciuto@sunmedia.ca

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**GENERAL SERVICE CLERK (PERMANENT PART TIME)**

Under the general direction of the Supervisor, Customer Service, the candidate will provide front line services to the general public regarding billing, payments, and other customer service related requirements. The candidate will also provide basic office administration to the Customer Service department. The ability to effectively deal with customer inquiries and complaints in a professional manner is essential for this position. Candidate will be required to comply and be familiar with all Company policies and procedures for payment of accounts.

We are looking for a self-motivated, self-starter, who has a positive attitude with the ability to work independently and part of a dynamic team. We are accepting applications for a team player with advanced computer skills, multi-ethnic based experience, basic accounting skills, and previous office experience in a customer service related position. If you are a highly organized and dedicated individual seeking an opportunity to work in a fast pace environment, we encourage you to apply.

CNPI is offering this part-time opportunity with an attractive compensation and benefits package, pension plan, professional development and more. The ideal candidate will have the following minimum qualifications:

- Post-Secondary education in Business Administration or in a related discipline from an accredited educational institution; must have at least three (3) years experience in a customer service related position.
- Candidate must have exceptional computer skills - SAP would be considered an asset.
- Candidate will have the ability/aptitude to perform mathematical calculations and demonstrated knowledge with Microsoft Office applications.
- Ability to take initiative and to work with minimal supervision.
- Must have and maintain a valid Ontario class "G" driver's license with a clean driving abstract.
- Must be willing to work up thirty-two (32) hours per week as needed or schedule.

Interested candidates are invited to submit their cover letter and resume to Human Resources no later than 4:00pm on September 14, 2015 by e-mail only to [HR@FortOntario.com](mailto:HR@FortOntario.com). Please indicate "GSC (PT)" in the subject line.

We thank all respondents for their interest, however, we will only respond to those selected for an interview.

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